

CLAIMS

1. An audiovisual terminal comprising:

entry means through which a viewer of an audiovisual program enters a confirmation code which is peculiar to the audiovisual program and is to be transmitted to a principal who authenticates viewing of the program; and

transmitting means for transmitting to the principal who authenticates viewing of the program the viewing confirmation code entered and time information corresponding to the viewing confirmation code.

2. An audiovisual terminal as recited in claim 1, wherein the viewing confirmation code is presented according to a timing peculiar to the audiovisual program.

3. An audiovisual terminal as recited in claim 1 or 2, wherein the entry means includes an input interface of a computer, and the time information corresponding to the viewing confirmation code is obtained on the basis of the clock function of the computer.

4. An audiovisual terminal as recited in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the audiovisual program is a broadcast program.

5. An audiovisual terminal as recited in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the transmitting means is constituted to transmit the viewing confirmation code after the audiovisual program is over.

6. An audiovisual terminal as recited in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the transmitting means is constituted to transmit the viewing

confirmation code at any time during taking a lesson of the audiovisual program.

7. An audiovisual terminal as recited in claims 1 to 3, wherein the audiovisual program is one provided through a reproducible medium.

8. An audiovisual terminal as recited in claim 7, wherein in the case the reproduction of the reproducible medium is interrupted temporarily, the transmitting means transmits a medium interruption code.

9. An audiovisual terminal as recited in claim 5, wherein the transmission by the transmitting means is made through a computer-readable medium.

10. An audiovisual terminal comprising:

means through which a viewer of an audiovisual program enters a confirmation code which is peculiar to the audiovisual program and is to be transmitted to a principal who authenticates viewing of the program;

means for storing the viewing confirmation code entered and the time information corresponding to the viewing confirmation code; and

means for transmitting after the end of the audiovisual program the stored viewing confirmation code and the stored time information corresponding to the viewing confirmation code to the authenticating principal.

11. An audiovisual terminal as recited in one of claims 1 to 10, further comprising code presenting means for presenting a viewing

confirmation code peculiar to an audiovisual program.

12. A viewing authentication system, wherein the time information corresponding to a viewing confirmation code is the time point of entering the viewing confirmation code, comprising:

means for calculating the entry time interval of the viewing confirmation code from the entry time point transmitted from the audiovisual terminal as recited in one of claims 1 to 11;

means for comparing the entry time interval calculated by the calculation means with the presentation interval of the viewing confirmation code presented on the audiovisual terminal; and

means for determining that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the entry time interval is in agreement with the presentation interval within an appropriate range.

13. A viewing authentication system comprising:

means for comparing the entry time point of the viewing confirmation code transmitted from the audiovisual terminal as recited in one of the claims 1 to 11, with the elapsed time from the base time, of the viewing confirmation code presented on the audiovisual terminal; and

means for determining with the result from the comparison means, that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the entry time point is in agreement with the elapsed time within an appropriate range.

14. A viewing authentication system comprising:

a program viewing result file for storing the viewing confirmation code transmitted from the audiovisual terminal as

recited in one of claims 1 to 11;

a program authentication pattern storage means for storing a program authentication pattern presented on the audiovisual terminal;

means for comparing the viewing confirmation code stored in the program viewing result file with the program authentication pattern corresponding to the viewing confirmation code stored in the program authentication pattern storage means; and

means for determining with the result from the comparison means, that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the viewing confirmation code stored is in agreement with the program authentication pattern corresponding to the viewing confirmation code.

15. A viewing authentication system as recited in one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the determining means is constituted to score on the basis of the comparison carried out by the comparison means.

16. A viewing authentication system wherein the time information corresponding to the viewing confirmation code is the time interval for entering the viewing confirmation code comprising:

means for comparing the entry time interval transmitted from the audiovisual terminal as recited in one of claims 1 to 11, with the presentation interval of the viewing confirmation code presented on the audiovisual terminal; and

means for determining with the result from the comparison means, that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the entry time interval is in agreement with the presentation interval within an appropriate range.

17. A viewing authentication system comprising:

means for receiving the transmission of the viewing confirmation code peculiar to an presented audiovisual program, the viewing confirmation code being entered at the terminal on viewer side for viewing the audiovisual program presented; and

means for storing the received viewing confirmation code and the time point corresponding to the viewing confirmation code, or storing the received viewing confirmation code and the time interval between receipt time points when said received viewing confirmation code is received;

wherein the viewing confirmation code is presented with a timing peculiar to the audiovisual program, to the viewer.

18. A method of authenticating audiovisual, comprising the steps of:

providing an audiovisual program;

presenting to a viewer of the audiovisual program, a viewing confirmation code peculiar to said audiovisual program, depending on the audiovisual program, wherein the presented viewing confirmation code is entered into an audiovisual terminal by the viewer; and

receiving from the audiovisual terminal the transmission with respect to said entered viewing confirmation code and the time information corresponding to the entered viewing confirmation code.

19. A method of authenticating audiovisual comprising the steps of:

providing an audiovisual program;

presenting to a viewer of the audiovisual program, a viewing

confirmation code peculiar to said audiovisual program, depending on the audiovisual program, wherein the presented viewing confirmation code is entered into an audiovisual terminal by the viewer and the entered viewing confirmation code and the time information corresponding thereto are stored in the audiovisual terminal; and

receiving the stored viewing confirmation code and the time information corresponding thereto which are transmitted from the audiovisual terminal after the end of the audiovisual program.

20. A method of authenticating audiovisual comprising the steps of:

providing an audiovisual program;

presenting to a viewer of the audiovisual program, a viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program, depending on the audiovisual program, wherein the presented viewing confirmation code is entered into an audiovisual terminal by the viewer; and

receiving the transmission with respect to the entered viewing confirmation code and the entry time point of said viewing confirmation code from the audiovisual terminal;

calculating the entry time interval of the viewing confirmation code from the entry time point transmitted from the audiovisual terminal;

comparing the calculated entry time interval with the presented interval of the viewing confirmation code; and

determining that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the entry time interval is in agreement with the presentation interval within an appropriate range.

21. A method of authenticating audiovisual comprising the steps of:

providing an audiovisual program;

presenting to a viewer of the audiovisual program, a viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program, depending on the audiovisual program, wherein the presented viewing confirmation code is entered into an audiovisual terminal by the viewer; and

receiving the transmission with respect to the entered viewing confirmation code and the entry time point of the viewing confirmation code from the audiovisual terminal;

comparing the transmitted entry time point of the viewing confirmation code with the elapsed time from the base time of the presented viewing confirmation code; and

determining with the result from the comparing step that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the entry time point is in agreement with the elapsed time within an appropriate range.

22. A method of authenticating audiovisual comprising the steps of:

providing an audiovisual program;

presenting to a viewer of the audiovisual program, a viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program, depending on the audiovisual program, wherein the presented viewing confirmation code is entered into an audiovisual terminal by the viewer; and

receiving the transmission with respect to the entered viewing confirmation code and the entry time point of the viewing

confirmation code from the audiovisual terminal;

storing the transmitted viewing confirmation code in a program viewing result file;

storing in the program authentication pattern storage means, a program authentication pattern which is formed by the presented viewing confirmation code;

comparing the authentication pattern which is formed by the viewing confirmation code stored in the program viewing result file, with the program authentication pattern stored in the program authentication pattern storage means; and

determining with the result from the comparison means, that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the authentication pattern formed by the viewing confirmation code stored in the program viewing result file is in agreement with the program authentication pattern corresponding to the viewing confirmation code.

23. A method of authenticating audiovisual comprising the steps of:

providing an audiovisual program;

presenting to a viewer of the audiovisual program, a viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program, depending on the audiovisual program, wherein the presented viewing confirmation code is entered into an audiovisual terminal by the viewer; and

receiving the transmission with respect to the entered viewing confirmation code and the entry time interval of said viewing confirmation code calculated on the basis of the entry time point of said viewing confirmation code from the audiovisual terminal;

comparing the transmitted entry time interval and the presented time interval of the presented viewing confirmation code; and

determining with the result from the comparing step that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the entry time interval is in agreement with the presented interval.

24. A method of authenticating audiovisual comprising the steps of:

providing an audiovisual program;

presenting to a viewer of said audiovisual program, a viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program, depending on the audiovisual program, wherein the presented viewing confirmation code is entered into an audiovisual terminal by the viewer; and

receiving the entered confirmation code from the audiovisual terminal;

comparing the received viewing confirmation code and the receipt time point of the viewing confirmation code, or the received viewing confirmation code and the time interval of the receipt time calculated on the basis of the receipt time point of the viewing confirmation code, with the presented time interval of the presented viewing confirmation code; and

determining with the result from the comparing step that the viewer is viewing the broadcast program in question appropriately on condition that the receipt time interval is in agreement with the presented time interval.

25. A remote education method wherein,

the audiovisual programs is one for education provided to learners; and

the viewing by the learners is authenticated with the viewing

authentication method as recited in one of claims 18 to 24.

26. A recording medium readable with an audiovisual terminal and having a program stored thereon for controlling the audiovisual terminal to perform the process of the audiovisual terminal receiving a presented viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program entered to the audiovisual terminal for transmission to the viewing authenticating principal; and to perform the process of transmitting the entered viewing confirmation code and the time information corresponding to the viewing confirmation code to the viewing authenticating principal.

27. A recording medium readable with an audiovisual terminal and having a program stored thereon for controlling the audiovisual terminal to perform the process of the audiovisual terminal receiving a presented viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program entered to the audiovisual terminal for transmission to the viewing authenticating principal; to perform the process of storing the entered viewing confirmation code and the time information corresponding to the viewing confirmation; and to perform the process of transmitting the entered viewing confirmation code to the viewing authenticating principal.

28. A recording medium readable with an audiovisual terminal and having a program stored thereon for controlling the audiovisual terminal to perform the process of the audiovisual terminal receiving a presented viewing confirmation code peculiar to the audiovisual program entered to the audiovisual terminal for transmission to the viewing authenticating principal; and to perform the process of the audiovisual terminal transmitting the

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